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FARM BUSINESS FACTS

A radio discussion by Wallace Kadderly, Radio Service, and E. J. Rowell, Agricultural Marketing Service, presented during the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Wednesday, July 12, 1939, through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company's Blue Network.

--ooOoo--

KADDERLY:

Yesterday, E. J. Rowell of Agricultural Marketing Service gave you some highlights of the crop report just issued by that Service. Today Mike is here with another batch of Farm Business Facts from the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. News on cotton, wool, crop and weather conditions and the poultry and egg situation.

ROWELL:

That's it Wallace. And starting with the cotton report, the Crop Reporting Board says that on July 1 there were almost 25 million acres of cotton in cultivation in this country. That's about the same as a year ago. But it's almost a third less than the average of the ten years 1928 to 1937.

KADDERLY:

But not all these acres of cotton will be harvested. We know that each year a certain amount of cotton acreage is abandoned.

ROWELL:

That's right and if we get the average percentage of abandonment, then the amount harvested would be somewhere under 24-1/2 million acres.

KADDERLY:

And from cotton let's go to wool.

ROWELL:

Yes, Wallace, and prices of wool in this country have held about steady during the past month after going up a little in May. The carry-over of wool into the 1939-40 season will be small in the Southern Hemisphere but stocks are fairly large in importing countries. The mills of Europe have been more active and the present foreign situation is one which encourages the building up of stocks of raw wool in those countries. In the United States the prospects are that the mills will use wool pretty rapidly but perhaps not quite as fast as during the first three months of this year.

KADDERLY:

That's your digest of the wool situation. Now let's look at some of the truck crops.

ROWELL:

The commercial vegetable growers from Virginia to New York got some much needed rains a couple of weeks ago. But in the cantaloupe and watermelon areas of North Carolina, they need more rain. Out in the Northern part of Texas heavy rains

(over)

interfered with the onion harvest and did quite a lot of damage to the crop. Rains also damaged tomatoes in Tennessee. Reports from the Pacific Northwest say that June was a cool month. It also says that some of the northern areas need warmer weather and less rainfall. In California, cool weather during the last half of June helped commercial vegetables.

KADDERLY:

When we add that information to what you said yesterday, we have just about covered growing conditions in all sections of the country. Now Mike--before we get away from truck crops can you give us a few details on such commodities as potatoes, onions and citrus fruits. They're pretty important at this time of year.

ROWELL:

I can--and I'll start with potatoes. Commercial crops of early potatoes in Nebraska and New Jersey will probably be one-fourth to one-fifth smaller than last year but still more than 10 percent above the 10-year average. In such States as Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Virginia, and Maryland, potato productions will probably be about 9 million bushels compared with nearly 12 million produced in those areas last year. The indicated production of potatoes for the 18 surplus late States is 263 million bushels. That's about equal to the ten-year average and about 5 million larger than last year.

KADDERLY:

Check potatoes. Onions are next.

ROWELL:

The onion crop in the intermediate States is about 17 percent smaller than last year -- or, in other words, a crop of about 700 thousand bags of 100 pounds each for this year, compared with 837 thousand bags last year.

KADDERLY:

That's in the intermediate states....Such states as New Jersey, Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and such areas as Scott County Iowa, and Walla Walla County in the State of Washington.

ROWELL:

Yes, Wallace, those places are all included in that figure.

KADDERLY:

A few weeks ago I read that the California Valencia crop was running to small sizes. Is that still true? And can you give us any other information on citrus fruits.

ROWELL:

To answer the first question: the California Valencia crop is running to small sizes. On the side of other information---the crop is estimated at 18 percent less than last year. Also, the condition of citrus fruits from the bloom of 1939 is below average--and that statement covers conditions of oranges in 7 States, grapefruit in 4 States and lemons in California.

KADDERLY:

Have we about covered the highlights of today's Farm Business Facts?

ROWELL:

Except for one thing...a report from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on the poultry and egg situation.

KADDERLY:

Let's have it.

ROWELL:

Coming right up!

So far as the poultry and egg situation is concerned, June showed little improvement over May. Poultry men got lower prices for both eggs and chickens than they did in May or in June a year ago. Here are two reasons. Farmers have been sending more chickens to market than usual this season of the year. Storage holdings have been large. The relationship between the prices the farmer paid for feed and the price he received for his eggs continued rather less favorable than it was a year ago. During the week ending June 24, it took about 1-1/5 dozen more eggs to buy 100 pounds of poultry ration at Chicago than it did during the same week last year.

KADDERLY:

(ad lib. close.)

